

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A switched current steering device comprising:  
2 an actual switch coupled to receive an input signal sequence that indicates set of  
3 state transitions associated with the actual switch;  
4 a dummy switch coupled to receive a dummy signal sequence that indicates a  
5 set of state transitions associated with the dummy switch, the dummy signal sequence  
6 indicating state transitions that are mutually exclusive of state transitions indicated by  
7 the input signal sequence.
- 1 2. The switched current steering device of claim 1, further comprising an activation  
2 unit having an input coupled to receive the input signal sequence and an output coupled  
3 to provide the dummy signal sequence to the dummy switch.
- 1 3. The switched current steering device of claim 1, further comprising an activation  
2 unit coupled to receive a next state of the actual switch, a present state of the actual  
3 switch, and a present state of the dummy switch, and coupled to provide the dummy  
4 signal to the dummy switch.
- 1 4. The switched current steering device of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a first current source coupled to the actual switch; and  
3 a second current source coupled to the dummy switch,  
4 wherein the second current source provides a different amount of current than  
5 the first current source.
- 1 5. The switched current steering device of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a first current source coupled to the actual switch; and  
3 a second current source coupled to the dummy switch,  
4 wherein the second current source provides less current than the first current  
5 source.
- 1 6. The switched current steering device of claim 1, wherein the actual switch and  
2 the dummy switch form a portion of a Digital to Analog converter.

1 7. A switched current steering device comprising:  
 2 a plurality of actual switches coupled to receive an input signal sequence that  
 3 indicates set of state transitions associated with the plurality of actual switches;  
 4 a plurality of dummy switches coupled to receive a dummy signal sequence that  
 5 indicates a set of state transitions associated with the plurality of dummy switches, the  
 6 dummy signal sequence indicating state transitions that are mutually exclusive of state  
 7 transitions indicated by the input signal sequence.

1 8. The switched current steering device of claim 7, wherein the number of dummy  
 2 switches equals the number of actual switches.

1 9. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising a switch  
 2 activation unit coupled to receive the input signal sequence and coupled to provide the  
 3 dummy signal sequence to the plurality of dummy switches.

1 10. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising a switch  
 2 activation unit coupled to receive a set of next states corresponding to the plurality of  
 3 actual switches, a set of present states corresponding to the plurality of actual switches,  
 4 and a set of present states corresponding to the plurality of dummy switches, and  
 5 further coupled to provide the dummy signal sequence to the plurality of dummy  
 6 switches.

1 11. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising an activation  
 2 unit corresponding to each dummy switch, each activation unit coupled to receive a  
 3 signal within the input signal sequence and coupled to provide a signal within the  
 4 dummy signal sequence to its corresponding dummy switch.

1 12. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising an activation  
 2 unit corresponding to each dummy switch, each activation unit coupled to receive a next  
 3 state of an actual switch, a present state of an actual switch, and a present state of its  
 4 corresponding dummy switch, and further coupled to provide a signal within the dummy  
 5 signal sequence to its corresponding dummy switch.

1 13. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 a first current source coupled to an actual switch within the plurality of actual  
3 switches; and  
4 a second current source coupled to a dummy switch within the plurality of dummy  
5 switches,  
6 wherein the second current source provides a different amount of current than  
7 the first current source.

1 14. The switched current steering device of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 a first current source coupled to the an actual switch within the plurality of actual  
3 switches; and  
4 a second current source coupled to a dummy switch within the plurality of dummy  
5 switches,  
6 wherein the second current source provides less current than the first current  
7 source.

1 15. The switched current steering device of claim 7, wherein the plurality of actual  
2 switches and the plurality of dummy switches form a portion of a Digital to Analog  
3 converter.

1 16. In a switched current steering device that includes a plurality of actual switches  
2 and a plurality of dummy switches, a method for reducing noise comprising the step of  
3 maintaining a number of actual switch state transitions plus a number of dummy switch  
4 state transitions constant during device operation.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:  
2 providing the actual switches with a first operating current; and  
3 providing the dummy switches with a second operating current that is different  
4 from the first operating current.

1 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:  
2 providing the actual switches with a first operating current; and  
3 providing the dummy switches with a second operating current that is less than  
4 the first operating current.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein a total switching power corresponding to the  
2 number of actual switches plus the number of dummy switches remains essentially  
3 constant during device operation.

1 20. In a switched current steering device that includes a set of actual switches and a  
2 set of dummy switches corresponding to the set of actual switches, a method for  
3 reducing noise comprising the steps of:

4 determining whether an actual switch will change state during a next switching  
5 cycle; and

6 changing a state of a dummy switch during the next switching cycle in the event  
7 that the state of the actual switch will remain unchanged during the next switching cycle.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of maintaining a total  
2 switching power corresponding to a number of actual switches plus a number of dummy  
3 switches at an essentially constant level during device operation.